

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/567,736

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Applicant(s)

MAILLARD, FREDERIC

Art Unit

3677

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's communication of May 10, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13-18 & 12; renumbered 1-19, respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                                |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Nicolas E. Seckel on June 20, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract has been replaced by the following full abstract:

#### **Abstract**

The fastening device comprises a housing having a joint for connecting to the link, and two coaxial pins for joining it to the object, of which at least one is mounted in a manner that enables it to slide between two positions, one being retracted from the wall of the housing and the other projecting from the wall of the housing for engaging inside an opening of the object, coaxial to a second opening for accommodating the other of these pins. The fastening device also comprises an elastic device for attempting to constantly hold the sliding pin in the retracted position and an activating element associated with a cam for displacing the sliding pin into the other position. When the sliding pin is in the retracted position, the internal extremities of the pins abut against one another, their respective surfaces being adapted for providing a space at the periphery thereof capable of receiving the extremity of a position of the cam.

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In the specification on page 3, line 20, "according to claim 1" has been deleted; and

Claim 12, line 1, the dependence of the claim has been changed from "1" to --19--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Howald (US 6014793, figures 5-6) is the closest art of record and teaches a device for fastening an end of a strap to an object comprising a casing connectable to the strap and two coaxial spring-biased pins 3 for connecting the strap to the object. The springs 4 tend to keep the sliding pins 3 in the retracted position. An actuating member 10 with the cam surface 10b is spring biased in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the sliding pins toward the one extended outward position in which the sliding pins 3 are in the protruding position and this is the only stable position of the actuating member 10. Claim 1 differs from Howald by requiring "wherein, in the retracted position of said sliding pin, inner ends of the pins are abutting" (lines 8-9) and further that "this actuation member being capable of being moved between two stable limit positions along this trajectory, a first position of release and a second position of engagement of said sliding pin" (lines 12-14). This combination of structure and function provides a very different design and mode of operation as the actuating member of the device of Howald is always between the ends of the sliding pins and has but one stable limit position when at its fully extended position along its trajectory and there is no suggestion in the art of record that would render obvious these claimed changes to the device of Howald.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James R. Brittain/  
Primary Examiner  
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JRB